

**Houghton-le-Spring Urban District
Council.**

**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1945.


L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present my Ninth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring, for the year 1945. The report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector is incorporated therein.

I regret that owing to circumstances outside my control and that of the printers, this report has been so long delayed.

Amongst other features it is interesting to note that the Urban District which had fairly well completed its programme of clearance of insanitary house properties before the war, made an early start post-war to try and make progress with new house buildings and that delays which may have ensued were entirely outwith the control of the Council or its Officers.

I tender my sincere thanks to the members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for the assistance which has always been so readily forthcoming at any time of need.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON.

To the Chairman and Members

Houghton-le-Spring U.D.C.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews). The Medical officer is the Medical Superintendent of the Council's Isolation Hospitals.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—No. 2 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—No. 3 District. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Fellow of Surveyor's Institute and holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HEALTH VISITORS. Are appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council. They are fully qualified holding Nurses Certificates, etc.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS. Are also appointed and work under the direction of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS. Are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

MATRON OF THE NORTHERN ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Whole time. Fully trained in General and Fever Nursing.

Contribution is made by the Government to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Tuberculosis, School Medical, Maternity or Child Welfare and Venereal Diseases Schemes are all administered directly by the County Council. The County Council also appoint the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and the Public Vaccinators.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Hetton and Medical Superintendent of the Rainton Bridge Isolation Hospital and the Alexandrina Smallpox Hospital.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres—5026 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—mid 1945—27,290,

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books—7888.

Rateable Value £107,694.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£389.

Vital Statistics.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1945 was 499 as compared with 561 for 1944.

Sex and legitimacy classification are shown thus:

		Total	Male	Female	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated populat'n 18.28
Live Births					
	Legitimate	475	244	231	
	Illegitimate	24	7	17	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 16.1.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born (3) the number of females born (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1945, as compared with the years 1940-1944.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1940	461	239	222	16.72	92
1941	460	225	235	16.93	154
1942	458	238	220	17.19	170
1943	588	299	289	22.23	250
1944	561	296	265	20.70	240
1945	499	251	248	18.28	189

Still Births—During 1945 there were 13 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female	
Still Births	Legitimate	12	6	6	} giving a Rate of 18.02 per 1000 total (live & still births) births.
	Illegitimate	1	1	0	

There is a still birth rate per 1,000 population of 0.62 in the district as compared with 0.46 for England and Wales.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 310 residents in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District died, being 167 males and 143 females.

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.35.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows:—

During 1945 there were 261 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 134 males and 127 females. Of these 19 males and 24 females did not normally reside in the area, therefore 115 males and 103 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 52 males and 39 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers, is 310, being 167 males and 143 females.

The death rate corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages was 11.35, the population at mid-year 1945 being estimated at 27,290. That for 1944 was 11.84.

Total Deaths under Five Years (corrected locally).

During 1945, 32 children died under the age of five years, as against 39 in 1944. Therefore 10.32 per cent. of the total deaths was of children under five years of age, as against 12.15 per cent. in 1944.

Deaths in Institutions.

Of the 91 residents who died outside the district, seven died in private houses and 2 following their employment in the mine, 1 in a road accident, and the remaining 81 died in Institutions, as follows :

Sunderland Royal Infirmary	...	...	36
Relton House, Chester-le-Street P.A.I.	...	...	4
Leaholme, Easington P.A.I.	...	...	6
General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	3
Sunderland Children's Hospital	...	...	9
Winterton House	...	...	4
Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Dunston	...	...	1
Sunderland Borough Isolation Hospital	...	...	3
Princess Mary's Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	1
1, Park Terrace, Newcastle	...	...	1
50, Portmack Lane, Stockton-on-Tees	...	...	2
Emergency Hospital, Shotley Bridge	...	...	2
Earl's House Sanatorium	...	...	2
37, Crossgate, Durham	...	...	6
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	...	...	1

10 residents in the district died in Heath House, therefore of the total 310 deaths of residents, 91 or 24.06 per cent. occurred in Institutions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list).

There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.

	Houghton- le-Spring	England and Wales
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births from Puerperal Sepsis	...	0.24
Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births from Other Puerperal Causes	...	1.22

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

27 children died during 1945, before attaining the age of 1 year, being 13 legitimate males, 13 legitimate females and 1 illegitimate female, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 54.10 (per 1000 live births).

During 1944, 32 children died before attaining one year of age.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1937-1945.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1937	...	77.1	...	78.0	...	50.0
1938	...	58.9	...	69.4	...	—
1939	...	43.5	...	45.1	...	—
1940	...	57.9	...	56.3	...	90.9
1941	...	67.5	...	65.3	...	133.3
1942	...	50.21	...	47.4	...	133.3
1943	...	57.6	...	50.85	...	41.7
1944	...	57.04	...	58.38	...	30.33
1945	...	54.10	...	54.73	...	41.66

It will be noted from Table II. that the largest number of infantile deaths occurred in Houghton Ward, for 10 died in Houghton, 5 in Penshaw, 2 in Newbottle, 7 in Herrington, and 3 in Fence Houses.

For the purpose of these and following statistics the population of the various wards has been taken as follows :

Houghton	...	...	8305
Penshaw	...	...	6475
Newbottle	...	...	4640
Fence Houses	...	...	4350
Herrington	...	...	3520
Total	...	...	<hr/>27290

The ratio of infantile deaths per 1000 population is :

Houghton Ward	...	1.20
Penshaw Ward	...	0.37
Newbottle Ward	...	0.43
Fence Houses Ward	...	0.68
Herrington Ward	...	1.98

Of the 27 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributable to congenital malformation, prematurity and debility in 17 cases, giving a percentage of 62.96.

The following table shows in detail the amount and causes of infantile deaths under one year of age during 1945, and also the number of deaths at the various ages, viz: 13 under one week, 4 between 2 and 3 weeks, 5 between 4 weeks and 3 months, 2 between 3 months and 6 months, 1 between 6 months and 9 months and 2 between 9 months and 12 months, a total of 27.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 310, 8.70 per cent. of the total deaths were children under one year of age. Of these under one year of age 48.14 per cent. were under one week and 62.96 per cent. under four weeks of age.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 m'nths	3 months and under 6 m'nths	6 months and under 9 m'nths	9 months and under 12 m'ths	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	Certified ...	6	1	1	1	9	7	6	8	2	32
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
{	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
	Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
	Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
{	Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Congenital Malf'mat'ns ...	3	...	1	...	4	2	...	...	1	7
{	Premature Birth ...	8	...	1	...	9	1	...	...	...	10
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other causes ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
		13	...	4	...	17	5	2	1	2	27

Nett Live Births—		Legitimate		Illegitimate			
		Males	Females	Males	Females		
Corrected as per Registrar General ...	Regis- ... }	244	231	7	17	=	499
Nett Deaths ...	...	13	13	0	1	=	27

During 1945 there were 290 deaths certified by registered medical practitioners (2 of the deceased so certified having post mortems performed on them). 0 deaths were certified by the Coroner after post mortem and inquest; 12 by the Coroner after inquest (without post mortem); and 6 were uncertified.

The ratio of deaths (at all ages and corrected) in the various wards is shown in the following two tables, the first showing the number of deaths which occurred in each ward (and in the district) during each of the four quarters, i.e. Seasonal incidence, and the second showing the age distribution of the deaths in the various wards.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Houghton ...	34	28	21	27	110
Penshaw ...	25	14	12	20	71
Newbottle ...	8	11	12	11	42
Fence Houses	12	11	15	13	51
Herrington ...	8	12	8	8	36
Totals	87	76	68	79	310

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	65-75 years.	75 years & over.	Total.
Houghton ...	10	..	..	6	1	8	27	29	29	107
Penshaw ...	5	1	..	..	2	6	21	20	16	71
Newbottle ...	2	..	..	2	1	7	10	9	11	42
Fence Houses	3	3	..	2	2	7	10	17	7	51
Herrington ...	7	1	..	..	..	1	5	12	10	36
Total	27	5	.	10	6	29	73	87	73	310

During the year under consideration there were 2 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases, giving a death rate per 1000 population, from this cause of 0.07.

There were two deaths from 'infantile' diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

In 1944 there were 5 deaths from the chief zymotic diseases equivalent to a death rate of 0.18 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table :

No of Deaths in Houghton-le-Spring.												
Population 1945---27,290.												
Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs	Total		
1927	361	0	0	1	1	1	3	14	5	25		
1928	355	0	0	2	0	0	2	8	2	14		
1939	322	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	12		
1940	369	0	0	2	0	1	0	13	1	17		
1941	306	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	8		
1942	288	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	1	12		
1943	338	0	0	0	1	0	4	8	2	15		
1944	321	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	1	10		
1945	310	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3		

Death Rates in Houghton-le-Spring per 1000 population as compared with those for England and Wales.												
Ho---Houghton-le-Spring; EW---England and Wales.												
All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyph'd	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza					
Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW	Ho EW
13.44	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04
14.22	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.03
13.44	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.04
14.98	14.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02
12.57	12.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.07
10.81	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02
12.77	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.03
11.84	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03
11.35	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.02

Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1945.

Causes of Death.					Male		Female
All Causes	...	...	...	...	167	...	143
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	2	...	0
3. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	8	...	6
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	...	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	...	0
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	0	...	1
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
11. Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (Male)	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
Uterus (Female)	...	...	...	...	2	...	5
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	...	8
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	0	...	4
16. Cancer, all other sites	...	...	...	...	17	...	14
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
18. Intra Cranial Vasular Lesions	...	...	...	...	16	...	13
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	52	...	46
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	9	...	5
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	...	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	0	...	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	0	...	1
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	4	...	1
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	...	1
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
30. Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
31. Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3	...	6
32. Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	...	8	...	4
33. Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	...	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
35. Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	7	...	1
36. All other causes	...	...	...	...	16	...	14

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1945, for England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 148 Smaller Towns including Houghton-le-Spring. (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000), compared with those for Houghton-le-Spring.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year 1945
Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

				England & Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resid't populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	Houghton-le-Spring Urban District.
				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
BIRTHS—				16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	18.28
Live	...	...	...	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.62
Still	...	...	...		
DEATHS—				11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	11.35
All Causes	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.03
Influenza	...	...	...					0.00
Smallpox	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Measles	...	...	...		
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	..			46	54	43	53	54.10
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	}			5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	0.07
NOTIFICATIONS—				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Typhoid Fever	...	..		0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...		0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...		0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...		1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	1.72
Whooping Cough	...	..		1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	2.12
Diphtheria	...	...		0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.69
Erysipelas	...	...		0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.32
Smallpox	...	...		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...		11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	7.65
Pneumonia	...	...		0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	1.53
				Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
(a) NOTIFICATIONS—				9.93	12.65	8.81	{ 3.60	0.10
Puerperal Fever	...	}					{ 15.87	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	}						

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY—England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22

ABORTION: Mortality per million Women aged 15-45
England and Wales:

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 without Sepsis
18	6

Causes of Death.

(a) Tuberculosis.

There were 14 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1945, being equivalent to a death rate, per 1000 population, of 0.51 from the pulmonary form and 0.18 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Houghton-le-Spring
1937	12	.58	.41	2	.11	.06
1938	15	.53	.51	5	.16	.10
1939	11	Not available	.38	7	Not available	.24
1940	9	Not available	.32	4	Not available	.14
1941	13	.601	.48	1	.127	.04
1942	10	Not available	.37	3	Not available	.11
1943	6	.557	.22	0	.111	.00
1944	13	.524	.44	5	.103	.18
1945	14	.519	.51	5	.100	.18

(b) Heart Disease.

Heart Disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area, 98 persons, being 52 males and 46 females were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 31.61 per cent. of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.22 per 1000 population.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		M	F		All Causes	Heart Disease	
1937	361	97	50	47	12.24	3.29	26.87
1938	355	110	61	49	12.05	3.73	39.86
1939	322	91	43	48	13.44	3.19	28.26
1940	369	112	54	58	14.98	4.06	30.35
1941	306	71	39	32	12.57	2.61	23.20
1942	288	79	40	39	10.43	2.96	27.43
1943	338	90	51	39	12.77	3.40	26.63
1944	321	77	38	39	11.84	2.84	23.99
1945	310	98	52	46	11.35	3.22	31.61

Rheumatism.

One of the most common causes of heart disease is rheumatism and more particularly is it due to the acute forms in the child and adolescent. Growing pains in the child are not infrequently due to rheumatism, but the more disastrous types are rheumatic fever, though it might be apparently a slight attack, and chorea, more commonly known as St. Vitus Dance.

It is now recognised that many cases of these types are due to a streptococcal infection and are definitely contagious. Investigations and observations have proved the spread of rheumatic fever from one child to another in a family, particularly where there is overcrowding, and the elimination of this is only one of the many important factors which necessitates the improvement of housing conditions as soon as possible.

Medical opinion is rapidly being converted to the realisation of the necessity of notification of cases of acute rheumatism in children and adolescents, and it would seem that this view is now being supported by the medical advisers of the Ministry of Health with the result that it is highly probable that this will soon be added to those diseases which are compulsorily notifiable.

Cancer.

55 deaths—being 24 males and 31 females, were due to cancer according to statistics supplied by the Registrar General. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 2.01 per 1000 population or 17.74 per cent. of the total deaths.

The mortality rate for England and Wales for 1945 was 1.945.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to Cancer in Houghton-le-Spring and the mortality rate from this disease in the years 1939—1945.

Year	Number of Deaths					Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male		Female		Total	
1939	18	...	11	...	29	0.99
1940	21	...	21	...	42	1.52
1941	17	...	21	...	38	1.39
1942	19	...	14	...	33	1.23
1943	20	...	20	...	40	1.51
1944	17	...	22	...	39	1.44
1945	24	...	31	...	55	2.01

Fear of operation and even a horror of diagnosis of cancer prevents a number of people from seeking medical advice early in the disease. Yet the efficacy of treatment, if given early, is steadily increasing. If all with any abnormality of health or unexplained swellings, particularly after the age of 45, would seek advice early many lives could be saved and much suffering avoided. Cancer in the early stages practically never causes pain.

Treatment by radium is available at Sunderland Royal Infirmary whilst the large clinic for the North of England is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Of the 55 deaths due to cancer 13 were due to cancer of the stomach and duodenum (a site usually often attacked) and 2 to cancer of the lung.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1945 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

Site.	Males—Ages.	Females—Ages.
Stomach & Duodenum	61, 64, 57, 67, 57, 80, 66.	59, 72, 67, 43, 80, 68, 54
Lung ...	... 55, 65.	35.
Brain ...	... 35.	55.
Rectum ...	... —	85.
Intestines —	—
Breast ...	... —	46, 52, 45, 70.
Uterus ...	... —	51, 60, 59, 40, 57.
Aesophagus ...	... 73.	—
Cervical Glands ...	... 15.	—
Pancreas ...	... 69.	68, 72.
Prostate ...	... 70, 62.	62.
Face ...	... —	48.
Colon ...	... 75, 71, 74, 50, 81, 77, 73.	59, 73, 74, 63, 66, 67.
Larynx ...	... —	79.
Mouth ...	... 75.	—
Spine ...	... 40.	—
Bladder ...	... —	73.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

See commencement of Report.

Development or changes in the following Services.

Laboratory Facilities.

As before.

Ambulance Facilities.

In addition to ambulances provided by the Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Colliery Company, for the conveyance of colliery casualties, the district is serviced by an ambulance (stationed at Herrington Burn) for the conveyance of cases of general sickness and injury, and by an ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital for cases of infectious diseases.

The accompanying table is shown as an interesting indication of the good work done by the general ambulance and illustrates how very considerably its use has been increased during the war years. Great credit is due to its driver for his careful driving and good maintenance of the vehicle and for the excellent spirit which he has always shown in his work, especially in trying war time conditions.

“ Night Journeys ” are those where all or part of the journey was performed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Year		Total No. of Day Journeys	Total No. of Night Journeys	Total No. of Patients carried	Total No. of Hours spent in Removal	Total Mileage	Total No. of Journeys
1937 June-Dec.	}	426	38	483	693	7106	464
1938	...	833	62	1007	1483	15017	895
1939	...	768	41	892	1380	13727	809
1940	...	724	59	1015	1505	14556	783
1941	...	822	41	960	1611	15823	863
1942	...	901	87	1426	1909	18660	988
1943	...	844	103	1542	2194	20658	947
1944	...	845	75	1529	2370	19663	920
1945 Jan.-April	}	303	31	572	788	6776	334
		6466	537	9326	13933	131986	7003

Nursing in the Home.

Maternity nursing is now done almost entirely by midwives appointed by the County Council.

Sickness and Accidents. These cases may be attended by District Nurses. There are three branches of the Nursing Association operating, viz: Philadelphia and District, Lumley and Fence Houses, and Houghton-le-Spring. The subscription is extremely small, a penny per week. The County Council subscribe to all local branches annually, and anyone who is normally in receipt of Public Assistance may, in case of illness, have the services of a nurse on the recommendation of a doctor.

Infectious Diseases. These are usually nursed by parents or relatives or removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital. In very exceptional circumstances the Council could make available the provision of trained nurses for home nursing of infectious diseases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There is no change in the services provided, all being maintained and administered by the County Council.

Hospitals — Public and Voluntary.

There is no change in the services provided.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The supply of water in the Urban District was, generally so far as the Houghton-le-Spring Ward is concerned, satisfactory, both in regard to quality and quantity. There was, however, one occasion when the reports on the bacteriological examination indicated slight pollution. The Reservoirs were immediately emptied, cleansed and lime-washed with satisfactory results. This pollution which occurs annually in the early summer, is due, in my opinion, to the open topped Reservoirs.

The supply to the Penshaw Ward, however, was very poor on several occasions, particularly during the heavy draw-off on Fridays, and during times of drought. A scheme is now being prepared to take a supplementary supply from the Sunderland & South Shields Water Company which, when in operation, will give a constant supply. Bacteriological examinations of the water were made at regular periods during the year, and with one exception, found satisfactory.

New Water Mains were laid on the Temporary Housing Estates at Shiney Row and the Villa, Houghton-le-Spring, and a commencement was made with the laying of mains to the Racecourse Permanent Housing Estate, Houghton-le-Spring.

The 6" dia. main and 4" dia. main from the Reservoirs for a distance of 131 yards in Sunderland Street were renewed. This has considerably increased the pressure of water in the high parts of the town and will ensure a constant supply to the houses now in course of construction on the Racecourse Housing Estate. All houses in the Urban Area have a piped supply of water.

Closet Accommodation.

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1945 was as follows:

Water Closets	7900
Ash Closets	50
Privy Middens	14

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

To prevent flooding of houses new sewers were laid in Mautland Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Station Avenue North, Fence Houses, and a complete Surface Water drainage system laid in the Grasswell area of the Newbottle Ward.

A new septic tank and outfall sewer were constructed at Sedgeleth to take the sewage from Osman Terrace, etc.

The three Sewage Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily

Rivers and Streams.

On account of the war the scheme for culverting the Burn at Herrington has not been proceeded with.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The regular collection of house refuse has been well maintained. With the cessation of hostilities it is hoped that re-organisation of the work will soon be possible. This will entail the acquisition of new vehicles to replace those at present in use, the most recent of which was purchased in 1938. The difficulty of maintenance during the war period has resulted in such deterioration as to make their complete re-conditioning uneconomical.

The incidence of sickness has been high, 435 working days having been lost. This occasions temporary disorganisation which takes some time to rectify.

Main tipping sites are at Copt Hill, Sedgeleth, Chilton Moor and Whitefield Pit. It will be necessary to acquire further tipping facilities for the Penshaw and Herrington areas in the near future.

The refuse is disposed of by depositing on tips which are mostly under the control of the Local Authority. Quite a fair acreage of unusable boggy land affected by subsidence has been reclaimed and made available for cultivation. As previously pointed out there is need for new legislation to obviate the present unfair position whereby the Council is called on to pay a rent for these tips equal to that for good agricultural land. Under existing procedure unusable land is being reclaimed for the owner at the expense of the rate-payers.

Salvage of Waste Materials.

The salvage of waste materials was continued during the year. The following give some indication of the type and quantities of waste materials reclaimed during the year. There has been some variation in these compared with previous years and most varieties show a decline.

Paper and Cardboard, 58 tons; Black Scrap, 11 tons; Rags, 1 ton 5 cwts; Bones, 2 tons 11 cwts; Bottles and Jars, 14 tons; Kitchen Waste, 124 tons. Gross Receipts £733.

The arrangements made for the collection and utilization of kitchen waste was considered inadequate by the Ministry of supply and a direction was served on your Council requiring it to be delivered to the Borough of Sunderland. The chief reason actuating the change was stated to be the prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease. The scheme proved uneconomical and the reasons advanced unconvincing, but eventually your council was compelled to undertake the work despite strong protests. Part of the processed waste is made available to local pig keepers in the form of pig pudding at five pounds per ton. It appears likely that in the national interest the salvage of certain commodities will be continued indefinitely, and this policy appears to me to be fully justified.

**Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector's Department
during the year 1945.**

I. Public Health Acts.				Number of informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses	}	Foul Conditions		2	...	2
and		Structural Def'ts		164	18	126
Schools		Overcrowding		12	1	...
Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	6	...	6
Cowsheds	...	...	...	18	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	...	2	...	2
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	4	...	4
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	1	...	1
Water Closets	...	...	...	182	3	181
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	2	...	2
House	}	Defective Traps		30	2	30
Drainage		No disconnection from sewers		...	...	...
		Other Faults		140	12	140
Water Supply	...	...	...	32	2	32
Pigsties	...	...	...	1	...	1
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	2	...	2
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	598	38	547

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	8	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	...
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	18 tons	15 tons meat
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	...
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	92	Milk
Samples found Adulterated ...	...
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	125	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	157	
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...
IV. General.		
Number of New Houses erected during year	...	
Number of such Houses occupied during year ...	...
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	
Ash-pit privies converted into Water-closets	...	
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	
Total number of Water-closets in District	7900	
Total number of Ash-closets in District...	50	
Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	14	

Housing Repairs.

The difficulty of obtaining materials and labour has greatly retarded the work of repairs, and this has been accentuated by the priority given to new house erections. In particular much of the external woodwork of houses is rotting through lack of paint, many properties not having been painted for over ten years.

Shops Acts.

During the winter period the usual closing hours were curtailed. This resulted in considerable benefit to the shop assistants without detriment to the shop keepers.

Camping Sites.

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Some of the older types need to be re-planned when circumstances permit.

It has never been necessary to request that a School should be closed on account of infectious disease. Speaking generally, infectious cases have been distributed throughout the district.

Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls.

Cinemas and places of public entertainment were inspected during the year and certificates issued as to their sanitary condition.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

The work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspectors in co-operation with either tenant or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

	Infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses ...	12	12
Number of Other Houses ...	26	26

Rat Infestation.

A few cases of Rat Infestation were reported during the year, most of them of a minor character. All complaints are investigated by your Inspectors and advice and assistance is given.

Housing Conditions.

Housing Statistics for the year 1945.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :	
	(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	564
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	840
	(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932	22
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	34
	(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
	(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	164
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :	
	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	124
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
	(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
	(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	—
	(a) By owners	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

Housing.

Estates were developed at Shiny Row and Houghton-le-Spring for the erection of 50 and 64 temporary houses respectively, and a commencement made with the development of the Racecourse Estate for permanent houses.

The erection of 64 permanent houses, on various estates in the Penshaw and Newbottle Wards, was commenced by direct labour in December.

Council Houses.

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1945.	No. of houses erected during 1945.	No. of houses in course of erection at 31 Dec., 1945.	Total
Newtown ...	82	...	...	82
North Rectory ...	60	...	...	60
Villa No. 1 and 2	176	...	...	176
Chilton Moor ...	148	...	...	148
Colliery Row ...	64	...	...	64
Hetton Road ...	308	...	...	308
Hall Lane ...	65	...	...	65
Race Course ...	84	...	64	148
Grange Estate ...	88	...	...	88
Sedgeleth ...	28	...	...	28
Hillside ...	72	...	...	72
Homelands ...	170	...	...	170
St. Aidan's ...	108	...	...	108
Park Estate ...	268	...	...	268
Station Road ...	56	...	...	56
Chandler Row ...	9	...	...	9
Chester Road Estate	206	...	50	256
New Penshaw ...	30	...	...	30
Penshaw Hill ...	72	...	...	72
	2094	...	114	2208

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supplies.

Conditions generally remain much the same in relation to the milk supplied in the district. Some of the milk actually produced in the district is exported and rail milk is imported. It is one commodity where the consumer is restricted as to his retailer. About 50% of the milk deliveries continue to be made from bulk supplies despite all efforts to secure delivery in bottles.

During the year ninety-two samples were submitted for examination. Labour shortage has added to the difficulties, and in many cases there appears to be less care exercised in the production and handling of locally produced milk. There has, however, been some improvement in the distribution of "Pool" supplies, though it falls far below the pre-war standard of cleanliness. Arrangements for bottling "Pool" supplies are in hand, but delay in obtaining materials has retarded the work.

Central Slaughter House.

The premises of the Co-operative Society Ltd., situate at Newbottle were taken over by the Ministry of Food and the carcasses of all animals slaughtered there have been examined by your Inspectors. The following animals were slaughtered during the year:

Cattle, 2382; Cows, 360; Calves, 206; Sheep & Lambs, 6915; Pigs, 163; making a total of 10,026, all of which were inspected. In addition 48 pigs were slaughtered by farmers or cottagers during the year.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	2382	360	206	6915	163
Number inspected	2382	360	206	6915	163
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	4	1	3	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	396	90	5	67	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than T.B. ...	16.6	26.1	2.91	1.01	9.2
T.B. only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	10	17	2	0	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	330	77	8	0	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	14.1	26.1	5.0	0	3.7

WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in Lbs.).

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcasses	Organs	Parts	Carcasses	Organs	Parts
Cattle— ex Cows	0	} 6682	} 2572	4600	} 7908	} 3801
Cows ...	1630			6226		
Calves ...	30	10	0	62	12	82
Sheep ...	110	268	30	0	0	0
Pigs ...	0	30	46	128	30	143
	1770	6982	2648	11016	7940	4026

Total Weight Condemned ... 15 tons, 6 cwts., 110 lbs.

Considerable quantities of tinned and other goods in retail shops were found on inspection to be unsound and were destroyed. These included 446 tins of meat, 76 tins of fish, 28 tins of milk, 178 tins of vegetables, 18 tins of soup, 10 tins of fruit, 160 bottles sauce and pickles. Other foods comprised 658 lbs. of fish, 50 lbs. of fruit, 24 lbs. of jam, 82 lbs. of butter, 68 lbs. of meat, 28 lbs. of cheese, 56 lbs. of sausage, 8 lbs. bacon, 6 lbs. tomatoes, 28 lbs. margarine, and 112 lbs. rolled oats. Approximate weight 3 tons.

Shellfish.

There are no beds in the district.

Bakehouses.

Inspections revealed that the general standard of cleanliness was satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following are the principal places within your district:

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. Durham Collieries Electrical Power Station.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing.
10. Builders Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factory.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	28	2	...
Factories without mechanical power	66	5	...
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises).	...	...	...
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories Total	94	7	...

2—Defects found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	3	3	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors (S6) ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):				
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ...	...	...	...	...
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	1	...	...	...
Total ...	7	6	...	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During 1945 some 451 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, a decrease of 389 compared with the number of cases notified during 1944.

Scarlet Fever.

47 cases were notified as against 65 in 1944 and of these 43 were isolated in hospital.

For reasons applicable in previous years—impracticability of providing a sick person with a room entirely to himself or herself, most cases require to be nursed in hospital and experience has shown that return cases are practically non-existent after five weeks' isolation although more often occurring when isolation is shortened.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified but without any relationship to cases of Scarlet Fever or sore throat without rash.

The case incidence was 1.72 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 1.89 per 1,000 civilian population.

The case incidence for the various wards was: Houghton 1.80, Penshaw 1.08, Newbottle 2.80, Fence Houses 2.06, and Herrington 0.85.

Diphtheria.

There were 19 cases of diphtheria in the district during 1945, as compared with 41 cases in 1944. 19 of these cases were removed to hospital in addition to a number of cases which were suspected of having diphtheria and were proved to be non-diphtheric. There were, in 1945, no deaths in the district from this cause. Anti-toxin is available by day or night at the Northern Isolation Hospital, or during office hours at the Public Health Department, Newbottle Street, Houghton.

The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.69, compared with 0.46 for England and Wales.

The case incidence in the Wards was Houghton 0.60, Penshaw 0.61, Newbottle 0.43, Fence Houses 1.14, Herrington 0.85.

Immunisation.

Of the 19 cases of diphtheria 3 had been previously immunised.

During 1945, 237 children under 5 years of age and 57 between 5 and 15 years had been immunised.

At the end of 1945 approximately 29.62 per cent. of the child population under 5 years and 57.53 per cent. of those between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised.

Influenza and Pneumonia.

There was a slight epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, fortunately, on the whole of a mild character. 1 death was ascribed to this during 1945 as against 5 in 1944 and 8 in 1943.

There were 7 deaths ascribed as being due to pneumonia (some influenzal pneumonia) as against 17 in 1944, whilst the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 42 as against 105 in 1944 and 88 in 1943.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas.

Measles and Whooping Cough continued to be epidemic throughout the district in 1945. In 1945 there were 208 cases of measles and 58 cases of whooping cough notified as against 426 measles and 96 whooping cough in 1944.

During the year no deaths were ascribed to whooping cough or to measles.

For reasons previously explained no action was taken in the district for the use of measles serum for prevention or attenuation of the disease.

There is definite evidence of the much larger number of cases in the last 3 and the first 3 months of any year and of the tendency to epidemics occurring in two yearly cycles.

Considerable difficulty is encountered in the control of the spread of measles owing to its great infectivity during the few days preceding the rash when the parents of the children think the patient is only suffering from a common cold and infection has been spread before the diagnosis is made.

It is of great importance that when a child is suffering from measles it should be isolated so far as practicable from other children since complications may occur in this disease which are of grave import. Also parents who know that their children, who have not previously suffered from measles, have been in contact with a case should watch them very carefully especially during the third week after contact and isolate them if they should show symptoms, bleary eyes, "running" nose

and cough, until it is certain after about four days time by the absence of rash that the case is not one of measles.

It is also desirable that brothers or sisters who have not previously had measles should be kept from school especially during the third week after exposure if a case of measles occurs in their home.

There is no doubt that hospital treatment in complicated cases of measles or whooping cough is often of the greatest value. When accommodation is available in the Isolation Hospital these cases can be admitted.

School Notification of Disease.

No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during the Year 1945.

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital, and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases is shown in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1945.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	47	43	—
Diphtheria	19	19	—
Enteric Fever (includ Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—
Erysipelas	9	1	—
Pneumonia	42	—	7
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—	—
Measles	208	2	—
Whooping Cough	58	—	—
TOTALS	388	66	9

The following table shows the following important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the sex and age incidence of cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and the incidence of each disease in every Ward.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1945 - Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward						Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.		
	At Ages—Years											Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington	Total				
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65									65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	2	1	20	11	5	4	2	...	...	47	15	7	13	9	3	47	43	1.72
Diphtheria	1	2	...	7	8	1	...	...	...	...	19	5	4	2	5	3	19	19	0.69
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	1	...	3	3	0.10
Pneumonia	...	3	2	2	1	4	1	2	6	5	4	4	42	11	10	7	6	8	42	...	1.53
Erysipelas	1	4	4	9	3	...	1	4	1	9	...	0.32
Pulmonary } Male	5	4	4	1	...	14	7	2	...	1	4	14	...	0.51
Tuberculosis } Female	5	2	1	1	...	9	3	1	2	3	...	9	...	0.32
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	1	...	1	2	12	1	2	2	1	...	...	22	5	2	6	8	1	22	...	0.87
Tuberculosis } Female	2	1	...	2	7	4	2	...	...	...	18	7	1	4	5	1	18	...	0.62
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	0.03
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	0.03
Enteric Fever
Small Pox
Dysentery
Measles	...	12	42	38	29	60	...	2	2	...	...	...	208	37	92	20	41	18	208	2	7.65
Whooping Cough	...	8	5	8	6	22	...	...	1	...	...	...	58	1	47	1	2	7	58	...	2.12
Para-Typhoid Fever
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica
Totals	28	52	52	45	33	127	28	26	27	14	11	8	451	94	168	58	85	46	451	69	...

Case Rates for Infectious Diseases — Notifications per 1,000 population.

Figures for England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns are Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterley Returns. Those for Houghton Urban District are corrected.

Disease	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	Houghton Urban District	Case Rates in Wards				
				Houghton	Penshaw	Newbottle	Fence Houses	Herrington
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.03	1.72	1.80	1.08	2.80	2.06	0.85
Diphtheria	0.46	0.56	0.69	0.60	0.61	0.43	1.14	0.85
Enteric Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27
Erysipelas	0.25	0.24	0.32	0.36	0.00	0.21	0.91	0.28
Pneumonia	0.87	0.72	1.53	1.32	1.54	0.21	1.37	0.00
Measles	11.67	11.19	7.65	4.45	14.20	4.31	9.42	5.39
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.28
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.47	2.12	0.12	6.33	0.21	0.45	1.98

Prevention of Blindness.

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.

There has been no action taken during 1945 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases of Mortality during 1945.

23 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 14 males and 9 females were notified or come to notice during the year, also 40 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis being 22 males and 18 females. In 1944 there were 39 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis being 22 males and 17 females, and 36 cases of non-pulmonary forms being 21 males and 15 females notified.

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis noted in 1945 according to sex and ward.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Houghton ...	7	3	5	7	22
Penshaw ...	2	1	2	1	6
Newbottle ...	—	2	6	4	12
Fence Houses	1	3	8	5	17
Herrington ...	4	—	1	1	6
Totals ...	14	9	22	18	63

The following table shows the various age-periods, for males and females, at which the new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	...	...	—	—	4	2	—	—	1	2
5 years	...	...	—	—	13	9	—	—	2	—
15 years	...	...	4	—	2	4	—	1	—	—
25 years	...	...	2	2	2	2	2	3	—	—
35 years	...	...	4	2	1	—	3	—	—	—
45 years	...	...	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 years	...	...	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	14	9	22	18	8	5	3	2

The figures in the Death column are from locally compiled records.

Occupation.

Amongst the non-pulmonary cases 22 were of school children and 6 under school age.

Of those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis 6 were miners, 6 were discharged from the Forces, 7 were housewives, 1 typist, 1 butcher, 1 factory worker, and 1 war time nursery nurse.

Site of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases.

21 cervical glands, 5 abdomen, 1 spine, 5 peripheral gland, 4 meninges, 2 kidney, 1 joint, and 1 bone.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

This seems to have been greatly improved within the past few years. Practitioners realise it is a duty and the patient or friends have learnt that notification is actually to help them since the sooner the County authorities know, the sooner they can help in treatment.

Examination of Sputa.

Sputa specimens are examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle, the County Council paying the charge therefor.

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